Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for sharing resources between first and second workstations separated by a segment of a public network, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

transmitting an email message from said first workstation to said second workstation separated from said first workstation by at least one security measure ~~and~~ disposed within a destination computing site;

employing a protocol to enable said transmitted email message to penetrate said at least one security measure; ~~and~~

determining, by said second workstation, if an executable command is within a script of the email message; and

executing the command if within said script of the email message ~~a command included in said transmitted email message~~.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said message is an email message and~~ said protocol is SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol)

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of executing said command causes the second workstation to perform one of printing a document attached to the email message, generating a calendar entry on the second workstation, and running a diagnostic program on said second workstation. ~~comprises the step of:~~

~~enabling an SMTP server dedicated to said second workstation to automatically perform at least one operation selected from a group of extensive operations.~~

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said executing step comprises the step of:

performing an operation on data other than said transmitted email message.

5. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

at said second workstation, verifying an identity of said first workstation.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one security measure is a firewall.

7. (original) The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of:

disposing said destination computing site within a controlled-access network.

8. (original) The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of:

disposing said firewall in between said public network and said controlled-access network.

9. (original) The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of:

attaching an executable file to said message, wherein said executing step comprises the step of:

executing said attached executable file.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said executing step comprises the step of:

executing a routine resident in a ~~said~~ controlled-access network identified in said email message.

11. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein said step of executing comprises the step of:

running a diagnostic program at said second workstation.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said executing step

causes said second workstation to print a document attached to the email message. ~~further comprising the step of:~~

~~identifying said included command employing at least one script recognizable to said second workstation.~~

13. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said executing step comprises the step of:

performing an operation on a document attached to said transmitted email message.

14. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said executing step comprises the step of:

performing an operation on a document resident within said destination computing site.

15. (currently amended) A system for securely enabling resource sharing among a plurality of workstations over a public network, the system comprising:

means for transmitting an email message from a first workstation of said plurality of workstations onto said public network;

means for enabling said transmitted email message to pass through a firewall separating said public network from a second workstation ~~disposed in communication with a controlled access network coupled to said public network~~;

means for receiving said transmitted email message at a ~~said~~ second workstation;

means for verifying an authorization of said first workstation to request execution, at said second workstation, of a selected function included in a script in the email message ~~of a selected function at said second workstation~~; and

means for automatically performing said selected function at said second workstation if said authorization of said first workstation is verified.

16. (currently amended) The system of claim 15 wherein performing said selected function includes executing code already resident on said second workstation. ~~said~~

~~message is an email message.~~

17. (currently amended) The system of claim 15 wherein said means for enabling comprises:

an SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Ptotocol) port for enabling communication of said message through said firewall.

18. (currently amended) The system of claim 15 further comprising:

~~an email~~a mail server dedicated to said second workstation; and

means for enabling communication between said dedicated ~~email~~mail server and said second workstation.

19. (original) The system of claim 15 wherein said means for verifying said authorization comprises:

means for generating a digital signature at said first workstation; and

means for decrypting said digital signature at said second workstation.

20. (original) The system of claim 15 wherein said means for automatically performing comprises:

means for running an executable file attached to said message.

21. (currently amended) The system of claim 15 wherein said means for automatically performing comprises:

means for running an executable file identified in said message and resident in a ~~said~~ controlled-access network.

22. (original) The system of claim 15 wherein said means for automatically performing comprises:

means for performing an operation on a document attached to said message.

23. (currently amended) A system for causing a function to be performed at a

destination computing site remote from a requesting computing site, the system comprising:

an email composer disposed in communication with said ~~a~~ requesting computing site for composing an email message including a task description and authenticating data, wherein the authenticating data authenticates ~~authenticating~~ said requesting computing site;

a network link for enabling transmission of said composed email message;

a mail gateway disposed in communication with said destination computing site for receiving said transmitted composed email;

a mail server dedicated to a destination computing device disposed within said destination computing site for identifying said task description;

means for verifying said authenticating data; and

means for executing said described task where said authenticating data is verified.

24. (original) The system of claim 23 wherein said authenticating data includes a digital signature.

25. (original) The system of claim 23 wherein said destination computing site is coupled to a local area network.

26. (new) The system of claim 23 wherein said task descriptor is a script having instructions to the means for executing.

27. (new) The system of claim 23 wherein said task descriptor is included in text of the email message.

28. (new) The system of claim 23 wherein said task descriptor is an instruction to print a document attached to the email message.

29. (new) A method, comprising;

transmitting an email from a first workstation, through a firewall, to a second workstation;

automatically detecting, by the second workstation, if an executable file is attached to the email; and

automatically executing, at the second workstation, the executable file attached to the email.

30. (new) The method of claim 29 wherein automatically executing the executable file causes the second workstation to print a document attached to the email.

31. (new) The method of claim 29 wherein automatically executing the executable file causes the second workstation to print a document located within a network that is accessible to the second workstation.

32. (new) The method of claim 29 wherein automatically executing the executable file causes the second workstation to print the email.

33. (new) The method of claim 29 wherein automatically executing the executable file causes the second workstation to execute code already resident on the second workstation.

34. (new) The method of claim 29 wherein automatically executing the executable file causes the second workstation to execute code at a device in communication with the second workstation.

35. (new) The method of claim 29 wherein automatically executing the executable file causes the second workstation to execute code included as an attachment to the email.

36. (new) The method of claim 29 wherein automatically executing the executable file causes the second workstation to execute a file resident within a network, the file being accessible to the second workstation but not within the second workstation.

37. (new) A method, comprising:

transmitting an email from a first workstation to a second workstation;

automatically examining, at the second workstation, the email to determine if an executable instruction is (i) within a body of the email or (ii) within an attachment to the email; and

if the executable instruction is present, then automatically executing, at the second workstation, the executable instruction.

38. (new) The method of claim 37 wherein the executable instruction is a script included within the body of the email.

39. (new) The method of claim 37 wherein the executable instruction instructs the second workstation to print a document to a specific printer.

40. (new) The method of claim 37 wherein the executable instruction instructs the second workstation to print a document in a specific format.

41. (new) The method of claim 37 wherein the executable instruction instructs the second workstation to execute a routine located within a network to which the second workstation is connected.

42. (new) The method of claim 37 wherein the executable instruction instructs the second workstation to print a document attached to the email.